

1 CLAIMS:

2 1. A method of imaging a lithographic printing plate having a heat sensitive
3 coating, comprising the steps of:

4 (a) imagewise applying droplets of a near infrared absorbing imaging
5 material to the plate coating;

6 (b) exposing the plate to near infrared emitters; and

7 (c) developing the coating.

8 2. The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

9 (d) washing the developed plate.

10 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

11 (e) drying the washed plate.

12 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material
13 absorbs in the 2.2-3.2 micron range.

14 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material
15 absorbs in the 3.2-3.3 micron range.

16 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material
17 absorbs in the 3.33-3.55 micron range.

18 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material
19 absorbs in the 5.7-6.1 micron range.

20 8. The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a photo-crosslinkable
21 polymeric and polyazide binder.

22 9. The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a resole and novolac
23 resin with a latent bronsted acid.

1 10. The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a heat setting monomer
2 and binder resins.

3 11. The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a monomer with a heat
4 activated polymerization initiator.

5 12. The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a novolac resin with a
6 naphthoquinone diazide sulfonic acid ester.

7 13. The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a diazo resin.

8 14. The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises ablative materials.

9 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material
10 comprises a dye.

11 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the dye is selected from the group consisting
12 of a squarylium dye, croconate dye, phthalocyanine, a merocyanine dye, indolizine, pyrlium,
13 dithiolene, a metal complex, carbon black, and phthalocyanine.

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